

July 10, 2013

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Sonoma County Water Agency
Stream Maintenance Program – Modified Easement 2013
Fountaingrove Creek Sediment Removal and Bank Stabilization Project
WDID No. 1B09026WNSO

Sonoma County

On February 27, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with sediment removal and bank stabilization on Fountaingrove Creek. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Fountaingrove Creek, within the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Area, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.22. The Project is located at approximately 3885 Old Redwood Highway, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, at latitude 38.481685°N, and longitude 122.734466°W. Temporary impact to bed and bank of Fountaingrove Creek is approximately 0.033 acres/100 linear feet, and permanent impact to approximately 0.006 acres/35 linear feet.

The primary purpose of the project is to remove accumulated sediment from the creek that is reducing hydraulic capacity, increasing flood potential and increasing bank erosion within the creek; and to perform bank stabilization to repair the erosion damage.

The project involves removal of approximately 160 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from an area of approximately 40 feet upstream of Old Redwood Highway, and 60 feet downstream of Old Redwood Highway, and also includes removal of sediment from within the box culverts under Old Redwood Highway. Additional work includes bank stabilization of a 35-foot section downstream of the box culvert on the left bank; this portion of work will repair the stream bank and undercut area of the parking lot. Vegetation removal from the bottom of the channel and trimming of selected trees will also be included in the project work.

Mitigation includes improvement of the existing low flow channel. Native riparian trees will be installed to enhance the existing canopy, and disturbed areas will be seeded with native grasses and covered with erosion control fabric. Affected instream vegetation will be replaced with native emergent species. All work will be according to the guidelines within the Sonoma County Water Agency Stream Maintenance Program Manual.

The project is planned for summer-fall 2013. Work is planned to last up to 15 working days.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has also applied to

California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, Agreement.

The Sonoma County Water Agency, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced an Environmental Impact Report and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2005082131) in 2009, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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